

Replacement Sheets

Fig. 1 — replaced.

Fig. 2 — replaced.

Fig. 3 — replaced.

Fig 4. — replaced.

Fig. 5 — replaced.

Drawings



Remarks

Replacement sheets for all the drawings have been provided. All the drawings were amended to conform to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84 & 1.121(d). Figures 3A and 3B have been amended to show reference numeral 23 referring to the overhang discussed on pages 7 and 8 of the specification.

Specification

The paragraphs objected to because of the informalities described in the first office action have been corrected.

Claim Objections

The claim objections described in the first office action have been addressed by amendment of the claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1–3 and 11–13 were rejected as being anticipated by Dalebout et. al. (US Pat. Pub. No. 20050079961). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that claims 1–3 (as amended) and claims 11–13 (as amended) are patentable over Dalebout.

Dalebout discloses a weightlifting assembly comprising a tubular weight bar and a pair of detachable locking mechanisms that are used to secure weight plates to the weight bar. The locking mechanisms of Dalebout comprise a shaft that supports the weight plates, a handle at the distal end of the shaft, and a movable cam at the opposite end of the shaft that engages threads within the hollow medial section of the weight bar. When the shafts are inserted into the ends of the tubular weight bar, and the cams have been actuated to engage the threads on the interior of the weight bar, the weight plates are secured by being sandwiched between the distal ends of the

weight bar and the handles at the distal ends of the locking mechanisms. Thus, the handles act as collars that secure the weight plates by providing a lateral obstruction.

The weightlifting assembly of the present application functions entirely differently from the assembly disclosed by Dalebout. To begin with, the weightlifting assembly of the present application features a single continuous weight bar that does not utilize detachable locking members. The significance of the present invention is that it allows a user to secure weight plates to the weight bar without the need for collars or other detachable means of securement. To do this, the present invention utilizes integrally-disposed plungers that are actuated to cause them to rise above the surface of the cylindrical faces of the distal ends of the weightlifting assembly and thus secure the weight plates by radially pressing against the interior faces of the openings of the weight plates. In addition, those plungers or portions of plungers that are not juxtaposed against the openings of the weight plates will rise above the surface of the distal ends of the weightlifting assembly and provide lateral securement of the weight plates. Dalebout does not teach the use of plungers to radially press against the interior faces of the openings of the weight plates nor does it teach the use of radially-moveable plungers to provide lateral securement of the weight plates.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1–3 (as amended) and claims 11–13 (as amended) are not anticipated by Dalebout. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

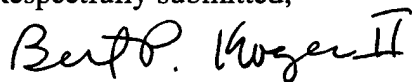
Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, and 11–13 to more clearly define the embodiments contained within the application and has amended claims 5, 7, and 12 to address grammatical issues. Specific attention has been given to reciting the purpose of the invention and to better distinguish the invention from Dalebout. The amendments to the claims have a basis through the

original specification, drawings, and claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is now respectfully requested. If the Office is not persuaded by the Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's amendment would place the application in a position for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned would be most appreciated.

Dated: March 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bert P. Krages II". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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